

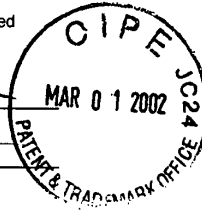
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed by depositing it with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202 on the date indicated below.

Date:

February 25, 2002

Signed:

Peter K. Trzyna (Reg. No. 32,801)



PATENT

Paper No.

File: AIS-P99-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Daniel L. Marks

Serial No. : 09/399,578

Filed : September 20, 1999

For : GROUP COMMUNICATIONS MULTIPLEXING
SYSTEM

Group Art Unit : 2765

Examiner :

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDED VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

S I R :

Set forth below is the amended version of the claims.

1. (Twice Amended) A method for using a computer system to arbitrate and distribute communication over the Internet, the method including the steps of:

connecting a plurality of participator computers with a controller computer through the Internet, each said participator computer connected to an input device to receive input information from a respective user and to an output device, each said user having a user identity;

programming the controller computer to control distributing the communication;

programming the participator computers to enable receiving the communication;

arbitrating with the controller computer, in accordance with predefined rules including a test for an authenticated user identity, to determine which one of the participator computers can receive the communication, including a communication of sound, video, a graphic, a [URL] pointer-trigger communication, or a combination thereof, wherein said arbitrating with said pointer-trigger communication includes said controller computer using said pointer to fetch a pre-stored communication to the one of the participator computers; and distributing, in accordance with the predefined rules, the communication in real time over the Internet to the one of the participator computers.

8. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

15. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

18. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

20. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication

21. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication and further including text or ascii.

22. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication and further including text or ascii.

26. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

30. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

33. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

36. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

38. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

39. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication and further including text or ascii.

40. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication and further including text or ascii.

44. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

48. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

51. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

54. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

56. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

57. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication and further including text or ascii.

58. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including sound and video and graphic and [URL] pointer-triggered communication and further including text.

62. (Once Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

66. (Once Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

69. (Once Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

72. (Once Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

74. (Once Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication.

76. (Once Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of arbitrating is carried out with the communication including said sound and said video and said graphic and said [URL] pointer-triggered communication and further including text or ascii.

165. A method for using a computer system to distribute communication over an Internet network, the method including the steps of:

obtaining, for each of a plurality of participator computers, a respective user identity from a controller computer over the Internet network, each said participator computer connected to an input device to receive input information from a respective user and to an output device;

programming the participator computers to enable communication, including a communication of sound, video, graphic, a [URL] pointer-trigger communication, or a combination thereof, wherein said arbitrating with said pointer-trigger communication includes said controller computer using said pointer to fetch a pre-stored communication to the one of the participator computers, wherein said communication is controlled by said user identity;

connecting said participator computers to said Internet network;

sending said communication from one of said computers; and

distributing, in accordance with the predefined rules, said communication in real time over the Internet network to at least one of said participator computers.

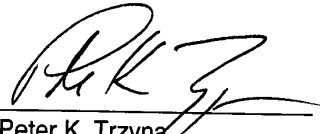
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the above-identified patent application or credit any overcharges to Deposit Account No. 50-0235.

The application, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (312) 240-0824 if it can in any way expedite or ease the handling of this case. Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

February 25, 2002



Peter K. Trzyna
(Reg. No. 32,601)

P.O. Box 7131
Chicago, IL 60680-7131
(312) 240-0824